
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
FUNCTIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.

1 WHEREAS, environmental issues, including mitigating and
2 adapting to climate change, reducing carbon emissions, planning
3 for sea level rise, protecting natural resources, watersheds,
4 and coral reefs, reducing solid waste, and improving wastewater
5 disposal, are some of the most pressing and urgent issues of our
6 times; and

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8 WHEREAS, the State has enacted various laws to address
9 environmental issues; and

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11 WHEREAS, the state divisions, agencies, offices, officials,
12 and employees that are most involved with these issues are
13 separated and housed under different departments; and

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15 WHEREAS, the placement of environmentally-related
16 responsibilities in different departments, divisions, agencies,
17 and offices deprioritizes environmental issues and hinders
18 coordination of the implementation of solutions; and

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20 WHEREAS, the absence of a single executive branch
21 department that bears all the responsibilities for environmental
22 issues results in an absence of leadership on these urgent
23 issues; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
27 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested to
28 convene a Department of the Environment and Consolidation of
29 State Environmental Functions Working Group; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or
2 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
3 the working group:

- 4 (1) The Governor;
- 5 (2) The Director of Health;
- 6 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
7 Resources;
- 8 (4) The Director of the Office of Environmental Quality
9 Control;
- 10 (5) The Administrator of the Office of Conservation and
11 Coastal Lands;
- 12 (6) The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
13 Coordinator of the Office of Conservation and Coastal
14 Lands;
- 15 (7) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
16 Tourism;
- 17 (8) The Director of the Office of Planning;
- 18 (9) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health
19 Administration of the Department of Health;
- 20 (10) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Government
21 Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152;
- 22 (11) The State Director of the United Public Workers,
23 AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; and
- 24 (12) A representative of a nonprofit organization dedicated
25 to resolving environmental issues, as designated by
26 the Chair of the working group; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor or the Governor's
28 designee is requested to serve as the chair of the working group
29 or, in the alternative, designate a chair from among the other
30 members of the working group; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
2 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
3 Working Group be attached to the Governor's office for
4 administrative purposes; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
7 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
8 Working Group is requested to consider and make recommendations
9 on consolidating the functions of all the existing state
10 departments, divisions, agencies, and offices that are
11 designated to address environmental issues into a single
12 Department of the Environment; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
15 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
16 Working Group is requested to submit to the Legislature a report
17 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
18 legislation, no later than sixty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2021; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the
22 Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions
23 Working Group shall cease to exist after June 30, 2021; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
27 of Health; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
28 Resources; Director of the Office of Environmental Quality
29 Control; Administrator of the Office of Conservation and Coastal
30 Lands; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator of
31 the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands; Director of
32 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the
33 Office of Planning; Deputy Director for Environmental Health
34 Administration; Executive Director of the Hawaii Government
35 Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152; and State Director of
36 the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO.
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